

5 December 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: HISTORY OF THE TERRORISM/DISSIDENTS FILE

STATINTL

1. In May 1968, [REDACTED] Acting Assistant for Special Projects, Office of Current Intelligence, requested that the Library supply him with material for preparing a definitive study on the causes of student turmoil. The original request to the DCI was from the White House. The report was to cover such aspects of the problem as: history of the movement, heroes and leaders, the movement in foreign countries, dissident student organizations and demonstrations, e.g. Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), etc. The report was completed and submitted and [REDACTED] was requested to prepare an updated report. The CIA Library was then requested to continue to collect material on this subject indefinitely. The materials supplied for the updated report were in the form of copies of articles from periodicals and newspapers that had been scanned for this subject, books and reports.

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2. As the worldwide student unrest spread, the forms of protest took various forms, literary, anti-war demonstrations, black power movements, radical right movements etc.; the persons, organizations, and situations began to connect and inter-twine. Foreign groups expressed their support for groups that were demonstrating in the U.S. and U.S. students and dissidents were supporting or participating in activities in other countries such as Cuba and North Vietnam, [REDACTED]

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3. In February 1970, the Student Unrest files (books, articles, reports, pamphlets, etc.) were taken over by [REDACTED] after several months of negotiations. The material covered domestic as well as foreign subjects. In November 1970 the CIA Library resumed control and maintenance of the responsibility of the Foreign Students section of the Student Unrest files. This was done at the requests of the Office of Security and the Office of Current Intelligence, as well as at the request of the [REDACTED]. There is a gap in the information collected in the file for the period that it was not in the Library. Building and maintenance increased from 1971 to encompass worldwide terrorism activities including domestic activities of the Symbionese Liberation Army.

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4. In a memorandum to the Director of Central Intelligence dated September 25, 1972 concerning activities to combat terrorism, the President directed the establishment of a Cabinet Committee to Combat Terrorism. The Committee was established to consider the most effective means to prevent terrorism here and abroad so that our government could respond to terrorist acts, swiftly and effectively. Ambassador Lewis Hoffacker was named Coordinator.

5. Ambassador Hoffacker's Assistant, Jeffrey Brown visited the Library in November 1974 and was briefed on the Terrorism file. His reaction was that it is unique within the U.S. government and probably in the U.S. He said that there is some duplication in holdings between his file and ours but he found that our files contained many items that he did not have, had not been able to acquire, or did not know existed. He made copies of selected items and we agreed informally to keep one another informed of new items. Jeff arranged to send over for copying important items such as hard to obtain manuals used by terrorist groups.

6. There are many Agency components that depend on the basic services of the file:

a. DCI/PA uses the files for the identification of many anti-war groups and dissidents that have contacted the agency in some way or written adverse articles concerning CIA. While these requests often originated with the Director, we have requests that come directly from Mr. Colby or from Mr. Proctor.

b. OCI and DDO [REDACTED] are interested in activities of specific groups.

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c. [REDACTED] calls with priority requests for identification of persons or groups that are mentioned in foreign broadcasts. Often these persons or groups are anti-war types who are not included in conventional directories.

d. Office of Security requests various information including law enforcement organizations, thefts of guns, sales of small arms, hostage negotiations, diplomatic security (installations and persons).

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f. DDO/CI and [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED] are interested in various aspects of the file, including assassinations and attempted assassinations.

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g. ORD is interested in many subjects, particularly in SLA methods and techniques.

h. The Office of Logistics levies crash requests for articles that have pictures of the rooms and buildings in which terrorists are held.

7. Currently the file is divided into the following arrangement:

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a. Subject - These include anti-war activities by which involvement with foreign groups maybe identified, black power movement [REDACTED] including their connections with other organizations or persons, street availability of drugs - which is important to OMS and OSI, - Indians, The Mafia, the radical right, religious and unusual spiritual groups and law enforcement enterprises.

b. Country - Articles or items that have the greatest emphasis on where an activity occurred, are filed by country. This is the case except where folders have been made on specific incidents that have had wide coverage in the press (particularly specific Arab Terrorist activities).

c. Terrorism - This is divided into 2 sections. Worldwide terrorism which includes basic background articles, chronologies, nuclear theft, airport security, protection of U.S. personnel and specific incidents. The Arab Terrorism section is arranged like the terrorism section but there are far more folders for incidents. The Background folder in this section is also heavily used.

d. In addition to the above folders there are books and reports which supplement the folders and subjects.

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e. There are also files in alphabetical order by the name of organization.

f. Sample periodicals from unusual sources or of unusual type are filed by the name of the periodical.

8. The sources of items selected for the files are all open literature. The titles of the periodicals which are regularly scanned are attached.

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CIA LY/INFO Section

Periodicals Section
Washington Observer Newsletter
Radio-TV Defense Dialog, USAF
Current News, USAF
Ebony
Encore
Intelligence Digest
Middle East International
Times of Isreal
U.S. News & World Report
West Africa
Bulletin of Concerned Asians
Esquire
FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin
Middle East Journal
National Review
Near East Report
New Yorker
New Times
Sketch (Middle East)
Time
To the Point
Pink Sheet on the Left
Oui
Playboy
Ramparts
Various press sources
Human Events